How Can Educators Design Modern Environments to Enhance Active Learning?
Education is under growing pressure
demands for change

- Improve graduation rates
- Improve learning outcomes
- Develop 21st century skills
- Cost & access
- Global competitiveness
Student expectations

ENGAGING EXPERIENCES
SUPPORT MY LEARNING STYLE
RELEVANT TO ME
RETURN ON INVESTMENT
behaviors are changing

learning-centered
new pedagogies
project-based learning
peer-to-peer learning
flipped classroom
online learning
blended learning
multi-modal learning
STUDENT SUCCESS
Grades + College = Success
Employers demand 21st century skills

- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Innovation
- Effective communication
- Effective collaboration
- Self-directed learning
- Information and media literate
- Globally aware
- Civically engaged
- Financially and economically literate
Tensions

From

Passive
Teacher centered
Analog
Teacher as source of knowledge
Whole class learning

To

Active
• Student centric
• Digital AND Analog
• Content is ubiquitous
• Individualized learning
Meanwhile, our students get LESS ENGAGED each year they are in school.
Active Learning

How would you define learning?

How would you describe active learning?
active learning is an individual’s pursuit of knowledge acquisition in a particular subject matter by engaging in a combination of multiple experiences to achieve this goal, including:

a) individual study;
b) dyadic (two person) interactions for short-term work; and

c) team work (three or more individuals) for long-term projects

...enabling interaction and learning from one another.

Scott-Webber, L. (2012). *Education design – what is active learning? What pedagogical tenets are involved? What size space can support this approach?* MI: NeoCon 2012 presentation - #W306, from Steelcase Education Solutions’ research.
active learning = physical movement = increased student engagement

- more square feet per person
- engage all senses supports cognitive mapping
- change of posture supports brain movement
- remember, the physical “envelop” [walls, furnishings, lighting, swivel seating] are all important to support ALES’s ecosystem

classroom
Active Learning Classroom

- Students are engaged as active participants and are central to the process of learning
- Dynamic learning spaces: no front, back or sides
- Compels student to participate – “no place to hide”
- Flexible and adaptive approaches to learning
- Fostering innovation – the 4C’s: creativity, communication, collaboration and critical thinking skills

Learning space influences behavior
“what we have to learn to do, we learn by doing.”

- Aristotle
adoption of new pedagogies

Learner-centered / constructivist pedagogy
Instructors as guide on the side
Discovery and team-based activities
Space Impacts Behavior
So….. are spaces changing too?
but…

has the classroom experience really changed?

have spaces for learning kept pace?
space remains the same

• OBSERVATIONS + INSIGHTS

• History repeating itself
paradigm shift
Many Modes of Learning

**PERSONALIZED LEARNING**

**PEER-TO-PEER**
+ GROUP

**DISCUSSION**
+ PRESENTATION

**IN-CLASS LECTURE**
+ REVIEW
Designing the built environment to support student success
Zone-oriented Active Learning Classroom
Node Classroom
Tiered Verb Classroom
Learning Commons
Collaborative Spaces
SKILLS THOUGHT STARTERS

Maker Space Classroom
DEVELOPMENT THOUGHT STARTERS

In-Between Learning Spaces
DEVELOPMENT THOUGHT STARTERS

Social Commons
MENTORING SPACE
NOTE: LEVELS ARE PRELIMINARY AT THIS POINT AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE PER THE FAQ. FURNITURE LAYOUT LEVELS SHOWN HERE WILL NEED TO BE ADJUSTED PER THE DESIGN TO ALLOW FOR ADEQUATE Aisles, etc.
STUDENT SUCCESS

Summary

Bolstering student success is a multi-faceted undertaking

Space can help

Incorporate design principles that support students’ knowledge, skills and personal development needs
Thank You